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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

November 28, 2018

Mr. Adam Laputz
Assistant Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Dear Mr. Laputz:

**Re: Request for Independent Science Panel for the Delta Mercury Control Program:
Review Final Phase 1 Control Study Reports and Provide Scientific Advice for the
Program Goals**

The Delta Stewardship Council Delta Science Program (DSP) is pleased to respond to the request of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (by letter dated November 2, 2018) to convene an independent scientific peer review and advisory panel to review the Phase 1 Methylmercury Control Studies and develop recommendations for future implementation of the Delta Mercury Control Program. The independent review (Phase I) will provide an evaluation of the scientific validity of the control study results and conclusions and the effectiveness of proposed control plans. The goal of the advisory panel (Phase II) is to identify data and information gaps that still need to be addressed for mercury and methylmercury controls and provide recommendations for further studies, implementation plans, and on criteria that can be considered when prioritizing the proposed actions. As part of the DSP's mission to provide best possible scientific information to guide management and inform decision-making in the Bay-Delta system, the DSP regularly convenes independent scientific peer review and advisory panels to evaluate processes, programs, plans, and products.

The DSP believes that it is best for Phase I, the independent peer review, to be completed prior to the initiation of Phase II, the advisory panel, in order to allow the output from the review to provide information that will be useful for the scoping of the independent advice process. Phase I will be a paper review and will occur during two time periods; a majority of the control study reports will be reviewed in 2019, followed by shorter review later that year or in early 2020. The DSP policy and procedures for convening scientific reviews and advisory panels are described in Appendix F and G of the Delta Science Plan (currently being reviewed and updated).

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/updated-delta-science-plan-isb-review-101218>

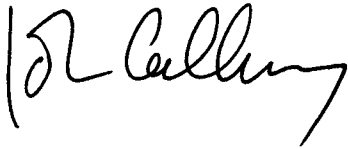
"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054

Mr. Adam Laputz
November 28, 2018
Page Two

We look forward to working with your staff to convene both the independent scientific peer review and advisory panel of the Phase 1 Methylmercury Control Studies and Delta Mercury Control Program implementation. If there are questions about this response to your request for peer review, please contact Yumiko Henneberry, Senior Environmental Scientist, Delta Science Program at (916) 445-7690.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Callaway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Callaway, Ph.D.
Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program
Delta Stewardship Council